

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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AUSTIN ASKS STATE TO CONSIDER ELWOOD AS BMV PROCESSING CENTER

INDIANAPOLIS – State Rep. Terri Austin (D-Anderson) has asked the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) to consider Elwood as a location for a proposed center designed to handle registrations, renewals and other transactions that are sent to the agency through the mail.

"Earlier this week, BMV Commissioner Joel Silverman announced plans to open at least two new offices to process the large increases in mail that have resulted since the agency closed a series of branches in Elwood and other locations around the state," Austin said. "Without having a license branch close by or access to a computer at home, more people have apparently decided to transact business via the mail."

Silverman said each center, which would employ about 40 people, would be located in communities of fewer than 10,000 people. The commissioner indicated that a strong preference would be given to placing the facilities in those towns that lost a branch earlier this year.

"Under those criteria, I cannot imagine any better location for an office than Elwood," Austin said. "During the years when Elwood served as the home for a satellite branch facility, it routinely handled a large number of transactions, so there would be no problem in adapting to the demands of a mail-in processing center. In addition, I am always on the lookout for chances to provide new jobs for the people in our area."

Like many small communities across Indiana, Austin noted that Elwood was hit hard by the national recession and has had difficulty recovering. The jobs created by the new processing center would have a positive boost on the local economy, she emphasized.

In addition, Austin said locating a new office in Elwood would benefit a community still reeling from the loss of the branch earlier this summer.

"I know that many residents were upset at the way that the whole branch issue was handled by the BMV, particularly when the commissioner offended so many people at the public hearing on the issue," the legislator said.

"I firmly believe that locating one of these processing centers in Elwood would go a long way to soften the blow that many residents felt due to the closing," Austin concluded.

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This news release can be accessed on the Internet at www.IN.gov/H36